### CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Gordon Cattle Company Pipeline

Proposed

Implementation Date: Summer 2018

**Proponent:** Gordon Cattle Company

**Location:** 30N 19E 13

30N 20E 18

County: Blaine Trust: Common

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proponent has requested to extend on an existing pipeline on state land and continue north to deeded land. The pipeline will be ripped in HDPE at a depth of 6' and approximately ½ mile in length.

## II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Northeastern Land Office (NELO) RSA Conservation

Gordon Cattle (Lessee)

# 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

DNRC is not aware of any other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed to complete this project

# 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**Alternative A (No Action)** – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant permission to install the stockwater pipeline.

**Alternative B (the Proposed Action)** – Under this alternative, the Department does grant to install the stockwater pipeline.

## III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.
- Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

## 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Tables — Frosi	on Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary By Map		and Part of Phillips County	Assa Mantaga (MT500)	Colly II Topped lies	
Summary by	Map Unit — Blaine County and Part of Phillips	A DESTRUCTION OF THE COOK OF THE CO	A DOMESTIC STORE THE SECURITIES OF THE SECURITIE	Area, montana (M1608)		(8
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons (numeric values)	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
17	Bearpaw-Vida clay loams, 2 to 8 percent	Slight	Bearpaw (45%)		65.1	89.09
	slopes		Vida (40%)			
			Zahill (6%)			
			Waltham (3%)			
			Zeeland (3%)			
			Gerber (2%)	*		
			Nishon (1%)			
151	Zahill-Vida clay loams, 8 to 25 percent	Moderate	· Zahill (45%)	Slope/erodibility (0.50)	8.1	11.09
	slopes		Vida (40%)	Slope/erodibility (0.50)		
			Cabba (1%)	Slope/erodibility (0.50)		
			Wayden (1%)	Slope/erodibility (0.50)		
Totals for A	rea of Interest				73.2	100.0%
able – Frosio	n Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary by Rating	Value				
		Summa	ry by Rating Value	8		
Summary by	Rating Value					(8
3.2	Rating		Ac	res in AOI	Percent of AOI	
Slight				65.1		89.09
Moderate				8.1		11.09
Totals for A	rea of Interest			73.2		100.0%

There are two soils located in the APE. The dominate soil has a rating of "slight" in regard to off road erosion.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

## 5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

#### 6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

## 7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Current plant community is native short grass associated with silty and shallow Eco sites in the western glaciated plains MLRA.

The will be some ground disturbance and bare ground created associated with the stockwater installation. These areas will be prone to noxious weed infestations. Frequent scouting should occur until revegetation has occurred to suppress noxious weed establishment.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

**Alternative B (the Proposed Action)-** Bare ground associated with the installation of a stockwater pipeline will revegetate with grass & shrubs in a few years. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) will remain visible for many years.

# 8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### 9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED. FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program for Species of Concern with a state rank of 3 or higher was conducted in the township that includes the area of potential effect. (State rank of 3 means Potentially at risk because of **limited** and/or **declining** numbers, range and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.)

Species of Concern 6 Species Filtered by the following criteria: NT Status = Species of Concern Township = 030N0206   bases	on maggad Special Occupanties						- T- 10		
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOSAL BANK	STATE RAME	USFNS USFS	81.0	FINE BWAR	H OF CLOSAL SERECTIVO BANGE IN NO	N OF HT THAT IS EREEMING RANGE	HASITAT
Ammadromus bairdii	Passerellidae	G4	538	M8TA: BCC11: BCC17	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	27%	57%	Grasslands
Anthus sprogueif Sprague's Pipit	Motacillidae Polts	State Rank Resson: G3G4 Species Occurrences ve	538 riffed in these Cou	MBTA; BCC11; BCC17.  MBTA; BCC11; BCC17.  MBTA; BCC11; BCC17.  Total Server Ser	SENSITIVE  SENSITIVE  SELECTIVE  SELECTIVE	SGCNO THE CASE TO DEPT THAT TO			
alearius ornatus	Calcorildae Langspurs and Snow Buntings	G5	528	MBTA: BCC11; BCC17	SENSITIVE	SGCN2	325	67%	Grasslands
Chestnut-collared Longspur		Species Occurrences werflied in those Counties System. Data to the Counties States Counties States S							
Numenius americanus Long-billed Curiew	Scolopactice Sanopipers	65	538	MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17	SENSITIVE	SOCNO	19%	100%	Grasslands
		PERSONAL PROPERTY.	riffed in these Cou	obless des el ress d'april d'arre, d'accomme de Los Magnes, d'april d'america, de la Particion.	ar Crise Oquata Pales. Date Projet Person To-ser (ver Pers)	Daniel Danier Georgiste ( Franse Family Northis North	our forms father leading t even houses takens from po	arfed Sarer Spain ( 200 de Joen Ship	Call Standar - C. Jahrenson, Note Sec Telepi Tupa Tirrina (1896, 1976) (1976)
pizella breweri	Posserellidae	G5	338	MBTA: BCC1G: BCC17	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	124	100%	Sagebrush
Brewer's Sparrow	New World Sparrows	ACTUAL TRACKS SERVICE	WEST-ST. TINGO	mber, Ern erman dig for danne Stadt etc. Ein Hanner Bern Paboner Prode Stocke Alexa Hanner Ernet de monten blande etche die sie sie	er Billatt Adresi, Frynts Chinas, Flanck	: Accherat Acceput Serger	Charles Stonester Sweet La	art Cater Can't Cast, I	White the properties part

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

**Alternative B (the Proposed Action)-** Temporary displacement may occur during installation of the Stockwater and fence for the Chestnut-collared Longspur. No population effect is anticipated for the potential species of concern in the area.

#### 10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

There are numerous cultural sites around the proposed pipeline route. Sites include stone circles and cairns. All registered sites will be avoided and if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### 11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### 13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

Alternative A (No Action)-No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.
- Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

## 14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### 15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

#### 16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

#### 17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

#### 18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

Alternative A (No Action) - No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

#### 19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

## 20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### 21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### 22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

#### 23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

### 24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

EA Checklist Prepared By: Name: Brandon Sandau
Title: Land Use Specialist

Signature: Date: March 16, 2018

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V. FINDING								
25.	25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:							
Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant to install the stockwater pipeline.								
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:								
No significant impacts expected.								
27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:								
	EIS		More Detailed EA	XXX	No Further Analysis			
		1						
	EA Checklist	Name:	Barny D. Smith					
	Approved By:	Title:	Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office					
Signature: Ban 11 Quick		Suis	<b>Date</b> : March 16, 2018					

